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NEWS

March, 1958

MEETING OF COMMITTEE ON ELECTRONIC COMPUTATION

The first meeting of the Structural Division Committee on Electronic Computation was held in Chicago on November 20 and 21, 1957. The meeting was attended by 16 members of the committee; Mr. Elmer K. Timby, Executive Committee Contact member, and 8 guests.

Actions of the committee of interest to the members are as follows:

1. The scope of the committee is as follows:

The function of the committee is to foster and stimulate within the field of structural design the application of digital and other modern computing devices for the purpose of:

- (a) using such devices to relieve the engineer of routine and laborious calculations;
- (b) improving design by incorporating refined procedures and methods not otherwise practical for inclusion; and
- (c) correlating work in the field of structural engineering with that in other fields of engineering and applied science.

2. The committee is made up of the five task committees listed below. The names and addresses of the chairmen and abstracts of the statements of purpose prepared by the task committees are given for each task committee.

- (1) - Programming and Coding: Sidney Shore
Associate Professor of Civil Engineering
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Purpose: To keep the Civil Engineering profession abreast of current developments in programming and coding for the application of digital computers to structural problems; and to consider and encourage the use of standard terminology, procedures and practices in preparing data for computers in order to allow maximum exchange of information pertaining to programs and codes.

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- (3) - Statistical Applications: C. W. Zahler
Engineer-Electronics
U. S. Steel Corporation
525 William Penn Place
Room 3324
Pittsburgh 30, Pennsylvania

Purpose: To study the use of computers for those structural problems requiring the utilization of statistical techniques. This investigation would include the statement of those problems for which engineers have found such techniques necessary or desirable, how they have approached the problem and what benefits they have gained. Such problems would include the interpretation of test, cost and field performance data.

The results of this study will enable the Committee to recommend such methods as multiple correlation, linear programming and the like as suitable means of solving those engineering problems concerned with the analysis of large blocks of data.

- (4) - Publications and Technical Sessions: Jackson L. Durkee, Designer
Fabricated Steel Construction
Bethlehem Steel Company
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Purpose: (a) Development of programs for ASCE conventions and for special symposiums.
(b) Cooperate with Committee on Publications, Structural Division, in promoting the publication of suitable papers on electronic computation.

- (5) - Program Directory and Library: John J. Kozak
Senior Bridge Engineer
State Division of Highways
Box 1499
Sacramento 7, California

Purpose: (a) To assemble and publish brief descriptions of engineering problems either now being solved or in the process of development for electronic computer solution.
(b) To make available through the Engineering Societies Library detailed information on the above subjects.
(c) To make available through the Engineering Societies Library copies of papers and articles on the subject of electronic computation for engineering problems.

3. In the initial phases of their work, the task committees plan to send out questionnaires to gather information on existing programs and on progress made in their fields of interest. Persons or organizations who have not received a questionnaire by February 1, 1958, but who desire to help the committee in its work may obtain copies of the questionnaire from the secretary of the committee.

4. The committee will establish and maintain cooperation with other groups interested in electronic computation. Cooperation with committees within ASCE will be handled by the control group, while members serving on other committees will assume the responsibility for contact with these groups.

5. New members will be added to the committee as its work progresses. However, in view of the great interest expressed, it will not be possible to elect all applicants to the committee. All meetings of the committee will be announced in advance and will be open to interested persons.

6. Comments and inquiries should be addressed to the Chairman; Dr. Nathan M. Newmark, Head, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, or to the secretary; Stephen J. Fenves, Instructor in Civil Engineering, 203 Civil Engineering Hall, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois.

